## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UN

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN COMMENTS IN OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA 4271

1. SUMMARY: NIGERIAN DELEGATE AT GENEVA LSC MEETING HAS AMBIGUOUSLY REFERRED TO AGREEMENTS BY A SPACEPOWER WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT ARE BY IMPLICATION IMPEDING PROGRESS OF REMOTE SENSING IN AFRICA. IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT NIGERIAN IS REFERRING TO U.S. AS SPACE POWER IN QUESTION. DEL SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY. IF REFERRING TO U.S., HE MIGHT BE ALLUDING TO ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREE AGREEMENTS: WITH UPPER VOLTA ON A TRAINING CENTER; WITH KENYA FOR A TRAINING CENTER; AND WITH ZAIRE FOR A GROUND RECEIVING STATION. DETAILS AND BACKGROUND OF THESE AGREEMENTS FOLLOW. DETAILED EXPLANATION OF U.S. ROLE PRESENTED BELOW. EXCEPT AS NOTED, MATERIAL IS UNCLASSIFIED AND MAY BE DRAWN UPON IN CONVERSATIONS WITH NIGERIAN DEL. END SUMMARY.

2. NIGERIAN DEL STATEMENT (PARA 4 REFTEL) CONCERNS PLAN DEVELOPED BY ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) WHICH INVOLVES ESTABLISHMENT OF FIVE REGIONAL REMOTE SENSING

TRAINING CENTERS (IN NAIROBI, KENYA; OUAGODOUGOU, UPPER VOLTA; ILE-IFE, NIGERIA; CAIRO, EGYPT AND KINSHASA, ZAIRE) AND TWO REGIONAL DATA RECEPTION/PROCESSING GROUND STATIONS (CO-LOCATED WITH THE TRAINING CENTERS IN OUAGADOUGOU AND KINSHASA). THESE CENTERS AND STATIONS WILL BE COORDINATED BY AN AFRICAN REMOTE SENSING COUNCIL (ARSC) WHICH WAS TO BE ESTABLISHED AT A MEETING OF AFRICAN PLENIPOTENTIARIES IN OUAGADOUGOU, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1977, BUT WHICH HAS BEEN TWICE POSTPONED. AS THE FOLLOWING PARAS INDICATE THE U.S., WORKING WITH CANADA AND FRANCE, HAS SUPPORTED, NOT UNDERMINED, THESE REGIONAL PLANS.

3. TRAINING CENTERS: AID, THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA), AND THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF COOPERATION HAVE BEGUN TO FUND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRAINING CENTER IN OUAGADOUGOU. AID HAS ALSO BEGUN FUNDING THE NAIROBI TRAINING CENTER WHICH WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO AN EXISTING ECA CARTOGRAPHIC FACILITY. THESE ACTIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE ECA AND IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REMOTE SENSING PLANS MENTIONED ABOVE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OUAGADOUGOU AND NAIROBI CENTERS PRECEDES THE FORMATION OF THE ARSC ONLY BECAUSE THE MEETING OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ORIGINALLY SET FOR LAST SEPTEMBER HAS NOT YET BEEN HELD. (LOU: FYI. ACCORDING TO THE ECA, THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA PLANS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ILE-IFE TRAINING CENTER. IN LIGHT OF NIGERIA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, NO U.S. FUNDS ARE CONTEMPLATED FOR THIS PURPOSE. END FYI.)

4. RECEIVING/PROCESSING GROUND STATIONS: THE LOCATION OF THESE TWO REGIONAL STATIONS WAS DETERMINED BY AN ECA STUDY GROUP AND CONFIRMED BY AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFRICAN MEETING BASED ON THE OFFER OF EXISTING GROUND FACILITIES BY UPPER VOLTA AND THE PROPOSAL BY ZAIRE THAT A LANDSAT SATION PLANNED FOR KINSHASA BE REGIONALIZED. CANADA IS CONSIDERING FUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION AND INITIAL OPERATION OF THE OUAGADOUGOU STATION. FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THE STATION AT KINSHASA IS UNCERTAIN. (LOU: FYI. WHEN THESE TWO STATION SITES WERE DESIGNATED, THE ECA REPORT DID NOTE THAT OTHER LOCATIONS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED LATER SHOULD ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PLANNED GROUND

STATIONS NOT BE REALIZED. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THIS PROSPECT HAS NOT BEEN RAISED. END FYI.)

5. RELATED AGREEMENTS: AID, CIDA AND THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF COOPERATION HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF

UPPER VOLTA TO FUND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE OUAGADOUGOU TRAINING CENTER. AID HAS A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH KENYA FOR THE NAIROBI CENTER. WHEN THE ARSC IS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED, WE EXPECT THAT IT WOULD BECOME A PARTY TO THESE ALREADY-AGREED PROJECTS. IN JANUARY 1975 NASA SIGNED A LANDSAT GROUND STATION AGREEMENT WITH ZAIRE. NASA HAS INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR AN AGREEMENT FOR LANDSAT RECEPTION WITH ECA/LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UPPER VOLTAN REPS BUT NO NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN INITIATED. (LOU: FYI. IN LATE 1976 NIGERIA AND KENYA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GROUND STATION AGREEMENTS WITH NASA BUT, APPARENTLY IN THE WAKE OF THE ECA/ARSC PLANS FOR STATIONS IN OUAGADOUGOU AND KINSHASA, NEITHER COUNTRY PURSUED THE MATTER FURTHER WITH NASA. END FYI).

6. RE QUESTION OF THIRD PARTY DISTRIBUTION OF LANDSAT DATA, USDEL SHOULD REMIND NIGERIANS OF LONG-STANDING LANDSAT OPEN DATA DISSEMINATION POLICY AND NOTE THAT U.S. HAS NO BASIS TO RESTRICT, NOR DO WE MAINTAIN RECORDS ON DISTRIBUTION OF, DATA TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

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